

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY


(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference BEAC/P29870PC		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/GB2004/000472		International filing date (day/month/year) 06.02.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 07.02.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61M35/00, B05B15/12				
Applicant BEAUTY SOURCE LTD et al.				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 18 sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
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Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer Innecken, A Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8911		



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000472

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1, 4, 10, 11, 14-19, 21-28	as originally filed
2, 3a, 5, 6, 12, 13a	received on 02.12.2004 with letter of 30.11.2004
3, 7-9, 13, 20	received on 29.03.2005 with letter of 24.03.2005

Claims, Numbers

1-38	received on 29.03.2005 with letter of 24.03.2005
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Drawings, Sheets

1/13-13/13	as originally filed
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000472

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-26,28,30-34
	No: Claims	27,29
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-26,28,30-34
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-26,28,30-34
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability (Item V)

Independent claims 1 and 30

1. Independent claims 1 and 30 meet the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial application according to Articles 33(2) to 33(4) PCT.
2. The subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 30 is novel as none of the prior art documents cited in the Search Report or acknowledged in the description discloses all of the features or method steps, respectively, of these independent claims.
3. The documents cited in the Search Report do not render any suggestion to a skilled person to construct a tanning booth for accommodating a person as disclosed in **EP1238642A (D1)** according to the further features or steps of either of independent claims 1 or 30. The features concerning the arrangement of a first filter for filtering wet particulate material; and a fourth filter comprising a relatively high impedance for filtering dry particulate material, wherein the first filter is positioned within the duct in a lower portion of the duct associated with the second plenum and the one or more foot plates, and the fourth filter is associated with one or more input grills, result from a step being non-obvious in view of the cited prior art documents in which no incentive is given to provide this specific structure and arrangement. Thus the tanning booth for accommodating a person and the method for applying a product to a human body, respectively, according to independent claim 1 or 30 involves an inventive step.
4. The subject-matter of independent claim 1 is able to work, can be manufactured, and the method steps of independent claim 30 can be carried out. Thus the subject-matter of claim 1 and the method of claim 30 is looked upon as being industrially applicable.

Independent claims 27 and 29

5. Claim 27 does not comprise all of the features of one of claims 16 to 26 as it only relates to a "tool according to any one of claims 16 to 26". Thus claim 27 has to be regarded as independent claim. The tools mentioned in any one of claims 16 to 26, however, are defined in very general terms such that "a tool according to any one of claims 16 to 26" and, likewise, the method for applying a product to a human body using the tool of claim 27" according to claim 29 cannot be novel with respect to the prior art.

Dependent claims 2 to 26, 28, and 31 to 34

6. Dependent claims 2 to 26, 28, and 31 to 34 define further advantageous and non-obvious variations of the tanning booth for accommodating a person according to independent claim 1 or the method for applying a product to a human body of claim 30 and thus equally meet the requirements of novelty, inventive step and industrial application according to Articles 33(2) to 33(4) PCT.

Certain defects in the international application

7. Reference numerals are missing after the technical features of the claims (see Rule 6.2b) and PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Chapter III, 4.11).
8. The description does not cite document **EP1238642A (D1)** reflecting the closest background art (see Rule 5.1a) ii) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/000472

Certain observations on the international application

9. Independent claim 35 does not contain any technical features as it relates to a computer program per se.
10. Independent claims 36 to 38 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT as they rely on a reference to the description and drawings (see PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Chapter III, 4.10).
11. Thus claims 35 to 38 of the present Application do not comply with the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that they are not clear.

be exposed over significant periods of time to particles of sunless tanning lotion which may "hang" in the atmosphere during and after the air brushing process. In addition, a client to which the product is applied is often surrounded by a mist of the tanning product during and after the spraying process and so may inhale a significant quantity of the product during the tanning process. This can cause discomfort.

Another problem with known methods and apparatus for applying sunless tanning lotions onto a person, is that if the atmosphere within a booth in which the application takes place becomes comfortably warm, the person may sweat causing streaking of the sunless tanning lotions.

A further problem with known methods and apparatus for applying sunless tanning lotion onto a person, is that once the product has been applied to the person, liquid waste is created which must be removed from the booth.

A tanning booth is described in our co-pending International patent application of even date, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

20

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a booth for accommodating a person, the booth defining a booth volume and comprising:

a base portion and a top portion;

25

flow means for causing air to move in a downward air flow within the booth, the downward airflow defining a predetermined volume within the booth;

recirculating means for recirculating the air within the booth;

filtering means for filtering the air within the booth; and

projecting means for projecting a product into at least some of the booth volume and onto a body of a person positioned in the booth, characterised in that the flow means comprises a first plenum of positive pressure located in the top portion of the booth, and a second plenum of negative pressure located in the base of the booth, one or more air input grills associated with the first plenum and one or more foot grates associated with the second plenum, and in that the first and second plenums are connected to one another via a duct, and in that the filter means comprises a first filter for filtering wet particulate material; and a second filter for filtering dry particulate material, wherein the first filter is positioned within the duct in a lower portion of the duct associated with the second plenum and the one or more foot plates, and the second filter is associated with one or more input grills.

The booth is adapted to accommodate a person requiring a product to be applied to her skin. The downward air flow within the booth means that any excess product projected within the booth, which does not adhere to the body of a person positioned within the booth, is carried downwards in the air flow. This means that fewer particles of the product remain in the atmosphere and therefore fewer particles will be inhaled by either the person receiving the tan, or the beautician, or both.

Preferably, the booth further comprises temperature means for controlling the temperature of air circulating within the booth.

The combination of a downward air flow and temperature means for maintaining the temperature within the booth at a predetermined temperature helps in drying the body of a person to which the product is to be applied.

Preferably, the temperature means maintains the temperature within the booth at around 29°C to 30°C. The inventors have discovered that if the temperature is maintained at this level, then vasodilatation occurs in the blood capillaries of the person receiving the product. It is believed that this causes increased blood flow close to the skin, which increases the skin's ability to absorb fluids exterior to it. This reduces the time taken to apply product to a person, and results in a quicker drying time. When the product is a sunless tanning product, this results in a deeper and longer lasting tan.

10

If a person were to stand in a 29 to 30°C environment with static, or slow moving air, rather than with a downward air flow, there would be a high

moisturisers, but preferably the cosmetic product is a sunless tanning product.

5 The flow means comprises a first plenum of positive pressure located in the top portion of the booth, and a second plenum of negative pressure that is located in the base portion of the booth. The first and second plenums therefore result in a downward flow of air from the first plenum towards the second plenum.

10 Preferably, the first plenum pressurises air to a pressure in excess of ambient pressure, and the second plenum depressurises air to less than atmospheric pressure.

15 Advantageously, the upper plenum inputs 10 to 15 % less air into the booth volume than the lower plenum draws from the booth volume. This results in air flowing into the booth through any parts of the booth that are open to its surroundings.

20 The booth comprises one or more air input grills associated with the first plenum and one or more foot grates associated with the second plenum.

25 In use, air enters the booth through the one or more air input grills, or any other parts of the booth that are open to the surrounding atmosphere. The differential pressure between the first and second plenums causes the downward flow of air which is directed to the one or more foot plates associated with the second plenum.

Preferably, the recirculating means comprises any suitable air moving device such as a fan. The air moving device is used to maintain the pressure

differential between the first and second plenums and therefore contributes to the downward flow of air within the booth.

5 The first and second plenums are connected to a duct in which the air moving device is located. The first and second plenums, the duct, the air moving device and the booth volume together form an air management system.

Preferably, the duct comprises a plurality of duct sections.

10

The booth may be considered as two volumes of air connected by the air mover.

15 Advantageously, the recirculating means has a maximum cross-sectional dimension, and the duct has a maximum cross-sectional dimension which is substantially greater than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of the recirculating means.

20 The duct can thus be used for more than one purpose, as the cross-sectional area of the duct far exceeds that which is necessary to allow air flow around the booth.

25 The filter means may be placed within the duct, preferably in a lower portion of the duct associated with the second plenum and the one or more foot grates.

This means that excess spray directed through the foot grate by the downward air flow will pass through the filter means.

The filter means comprises a first filter for filtering wet particulate material.

Any suitable material may be used but preferably, the first filter is a high
5 impedance filter.

Conveniently, the first filter comprises polyester material that filters fine particulate and wet particulate, such as a polyester fibre weave.

10 The filter may also, or alternatively be placed in association with the first plenum and the input grill.

Advantageously, the filter means comprises a third filter which is a low impedance filter, which serves to filter excess wet particulate material after
15 the spray has passed through the first filter. The second filter also acts to ensure that air flow is distributed substantially evenly across the foot grate.

Once wet particulate has been captured in the first and third filters it dries, due to the air flow within the booth. This ensures that little, if any, liquid
20 waste is produced, and therefore ensures that the booth does not have to be connected to external services.

Conveniently, the second material comprise "andrea" type perforated concertina card filter.

25 Preferably, the filter means comprises a fourth filter for filtering any remaining dry particulate.

Any suitable filter may be used, but advantageously the fourth filter is one
30 that is conventionally regarded as coarse and with a low air movement

impedance. However, such a filter is conventionally intended to have a depth of 100mm. The inventors have discovered that by making such a filter with a depth of approximately 750mm, air movement is not greatly impeded, but air has to pass through seven times as much coarse media than is conventionally the case. This not only dramatically increases the efficiency of the filter in removing dry particulate, but also lends considerable sound dampening characteristics to the movement of large volumes of air through the booth.

10 Conveniently, the fourth filter comprises a loose bonded fibre filter.

The filter means comprises a second filter associated with the one or more input grills. The impedance of the second filter is preferably varied across the filter to ensure that the air distribution is encouraged towards the front of the air input system. This encourages a venturi effect.

The Venturi Effect (or Bernoulli Effect) states that when the velocity of a fluid (for example, air) is increased its pressure decreases. Therefore, by increasing the speed of air issuing from the air input grill, an area of low pressure is created within the downward air flow issuing from the input grill. This is achieved by pressurising the first plenum and then allowing the pressurised air to escape at speeds typically approximately 1.2ms^{-1} . Due to the fact that the ambient atmospheric pressure will be greater than the pressure within the downward air flow issuing from the input grill (lowered according to Bernoulli's Principle), air will move from outside the booth volume to attempt to equalise this pressure differential. This results in a constant flow of fresh air coming into the booth volume from portions of the booth that are open to the surroundings.

The Bernoulli effect, combined with pressure differentials existing within the booth due to the relative overpressure in the first (upper) plenum and the relative underpressure in the second (lower) plenum, result in an inflow of air from outside the booth volume into the booth volume. This effect, in combination with the effect of the input grill or grills which typically have a concave shape, means that the incoming air can be used to increase the air speed within the booth volume particularly towards a central portion of the booth volume. This leads to advantages in terms of extract rate of product, and the energy efficiency of the air mover. In addition, due to the high airspeed of the downward flow of air, product is less likely to be inhaled by a person using the booth.

Conveniently, the second filter comprises a polyester fibre weave fine particulate filter.

The relatively high impedance of the fourth filter ensures that sufficient air pressure is generated within the first plenum to cause an appropriate proportion of air volume to be forced out of the booth through, for example, bleed sites formed in the booth.

Optionally, the filter means further comprises a fifth filter which may be in the form of a two-part filter, the first part comprising a mechanical particulate filter, and the second part comprising an electrostatic charge filter.

Conveniently, the fifth filter comprises loose bonded fibre filter and an electrostatically charged needle perforated synthetic sheet filter.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the remotely operable tool comprises means to automatically transport the tool to provide spraying between two zones in the booth. Preferably, the two zones comprise substantially the entire height of the booth.

5

In one form, the automatic transport means comprises at least one slider unit moveable vertically between two positions, the slider unit supporting at least one spray means.

10 Preferably there is provided two slider units supporting an arcuate spray arm comprising a plurality of spray guns.

The spray guns may be directed to spray product horizontally and/or at an angle to the horizontal (whether upwardly or downwardly) and/or some
15 combination of these.

Preferably, the control system operates the projecting means to project specified amounts of the product in selected regions of the booth volume, the specified amounts varying from zero to maximum flow of the product
20 from the projecting means.

Preferably, the projecting means is movable along a path within the booth and the control system operates the projecting means as it moves along the path in accordance with predetermined instructions.

25

There is also provided a computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of the method.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a tool for projecting a product into a booth, the booth comprising a base portion and a top portion, and flow means for causing a downward air flow within the booth.

5

According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for applying a product to a human body comprising the steps of:

causing air to flow in a downward direction onto the human body within a booth, the booth defining a booth volume and comprising a base portion and a top portion;

10

flow means for causing air to flow in a downward air flow within the booth, the downward air flow defining a predetermined volume within the booth;

recirculating means for recirculating the air within the booth;

15

projecting means for projecting a product into at least some of the booth volume onto the human body, the flow means comprising a first plenum of positive pressure located in the top portion of the booth, and a second plenum of negative pressure located in the base of the booth, one or more air input grills associated with the first plenum and one or more foot grates associated with the second plenum;

20

recirculating the air flowing onto the human body;

filtering the air to remove wet and dry particulate material;

projecting a product onto the human body, wherein the step of filtering the air to remove wet and dry particulate material comprises

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passing the air through a first filter for filtering wet particulate material;

passing the air through a second filter for filtering dry particulate; characterised in that:

the first filter is positioned within the duct in a lower portion of the duct associated with the second plenum and the one or more foot plates, and

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the second filter is associated with one or more input grills.

Preferably, the method comprises the further step of controlling the temperature of the air flowing onto the human body.

5

The invention will now be further described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which;

Figures 1a and 1b are schematic representations of two booths according to
10 a first embodiment of the present invention;

The air management system of a booth 200 comprises duct 16, air mover 18 in the form of, for example, a fan, upper plenum 10, lower plenum 12 and spray chamber 4. The upper plenum includes an air input grill 104, and the lower plenum includes a foot grate 102. The booth 200 further comprises
5 filters 20 which serve to remove all or substantially all of any wet or dry particulate sprayed into the spray chamber 4, that does not adhere to the body of the person standing in the chamber. The booth 200 further comprises a heater 26, which in this embodiment maintains the temperature of recirculating air at approximately 29 - 30°C.

10

The first plenum 10 is kept at a pressure above atmospheric pressure, and the second plenum 12 is kept at a pressure below atmospheric pressure. This causes a downward flow of air as indicated by the arrows 106. The air is recirculated and passes through a first filter 20a that catches a majority of
15 any excess wet spray, hair, and large skin flakes which are directed downwardly by the downward air flow and through the foot grate 102.

The air then passes through a third filter 20b, which serves to collect substantially all of any remaining wet particulate being carried by the air.

20

The air is then directed up the duct 16 in the direction of arrows 108. The air passes through a fourth filter 20c which collects substantially all remaining dry particulate, crystalline particulate and dust remaining in the air.

25

Once the air has reached the top of the duct 16, a portion of the air will exit the booth 200 via filtered pressure relief ports 110. Air not exiting at this point, is directed through the air input grill via a second filter 20d which is a two part filter used for collecting remaining dry particulate, crystalline

CLAIMS

1. A booth for accommodating a person, the booth defining a booth
5 volume and comprising:
a base portion and a top portion;
flow means for causing air to move in a downward air flow within
the booth, the downward airflow defining a predetermined volume within
the booth;
10 recirculating means for recirculating the air within the booth;
filtering means for filtering the air within the booth; and
projecting means for projecting a product into at least some of the
booth volume and onto a body of a person positioned in the booth,
characterised in that the flow means comprises a first plenum of positive
15 pressure located in the top portion of the booth, and a second plenum of
negative pressure located in the base of the booth, one or more air input
grills associated with the first plenum and one or more foot grates
associated with the second plenum, and in that the first and second plenums
are connected to one another via a duct, and in that the filter means
20 comprises a first filter for filtering wet particulate material; and a second
filter for filtering dry particulate material, wherein the first filter is
positioned within the duct in a lower portion of the duct associated with the
second plenum and the one or more foot plates, and the second filter is
associated with one or more input grills.
25
2. A booth according to Claim 1, further comprising temperature means
for controlling the temperature of air circulating within the booth.
3. A booth according to Claim 2 wherein the temperature means is
30 adapted to maintain the air flow at about 29°C to 30°C.

4. A booth according to Claim 2, wherein the temperature means is adapted to maintain the air flow at about 33°C.

5 5. A booth according to Claims 2, 3 or 4 wherein the temperature means comprises a heater.

6. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the first plenum is adapted to pressurise air to a pressure in excess of ambient
10 pressure, and the second plenum is adapted to depressurise air to less than atmospheric pressure.

7. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the duct comprises a plurality of duct sections.

15

8. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the recirculating means comprises a fan.

9. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
20 recirculating means is located within the duct.

10. A booth according to Claim 9 wherein the recirculating means has a maximum cross-sectional dimension, and the duct has a maximum cross-sectional dimension which is substantially greater than the cross-sectional
25 dimension of the recirculating means.

11. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the filter means comprises a third filter comprising a low impedance filter for filtering wet particulate material.

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12. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the filter means comprises a fourth filter comprising a second low impedance filter for filtering dry particulate material.

5 13. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the second filter has an impedance that varies across the filter.

14. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the filter means comprises a fifth filter comprising a first filter component
10 comprising a relatively high impedance filter, and a second filter component comprising a combined mechanical and electrostatic filter.

15. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the predetermined volume comprises a portion of the booth volume.

15

16. A booth according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the projecting means comprises a hand held tool.

20

17. A booth according to Claim 16 wherein the hand held tool comprises an air gun.

18. A booth according to Claim 17 where the hand held tool comprises an airless sprayer.

25

19. A booth according to any one of Claims 1 to 15 wherein the projecting means comprises a remotely operable tool.

30

20. A booth according to Claim 19 wherein the remotely operable tool comprises a plurality of nozzles adapted to project the product into the predetermined volume.

21. A booth according to Claim 19 wherein the remotely operable tool further comprises adjustment means for adjusting the height of the nozzles.

5 22. A booth according to Claim 21 wherein the adjustment means additionally adjusts the attitude of the nozzles.

23. A booth according to any one of Claims 19 to 22 wherein the remotely operable tool comprises a nozzle support defining a substantially
10 arcuate shape, the nozzles being positioned to spray the product into an area defined by the nozzle support.

24. A booth according to any preceding claim comprising a remotely operable tool with means to automatically transport the tool to provide
15 spraying between two zones in the booth.

25. A booth according to Claim 24 wherein the automatic transport means comprises at least one slider unit moveable vertically between two positions, the slider unit supporting at least one spray means.

20 26. A booth according to any preceding claim comprising spray guns which are directed to spray product horizontally and/or at an angle to the horizontal (whether upwardly or downwardly) and/or some combination of these.

25 27. A hand held tool according to any one of Claims 16 to 26.

28. A method for applying a product to a human body using a booth as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 26.

29. A method for applying a product to a human body using the tool of Claim 27.

30. A method for applying a product to a human body comprising the steps of:

causing air to flow in a downward direction onto the human body within a booth, the booth defining a booth volume and comprising a base portion and a top portion;

flow means for causing air to flow in a downward air flow within the booth, the downward air flow defining a predetermined volume within the booth;

recirculating means for recirculating the air within the booth;

projecting means for projecting a product into at least some of the booth volume onto the human body, the flow means comprising a first plenum of positive pressure located in the top portion of the booth, and a second plenum of negative pressure located in the base of the booth, one or more air input grills associated with the first plenum and one or more foot grates associated with the second plenum the first and second plenums being connected to one another via a duct;

recirculating the air flowing onto the human body;

filtering the air to remove wet and dry particulate material;

projecting a product onto the human body, wherein the step of filtering the air to remove wet and dry particulate material comprises passing the air through a first filter for filtering wet particulate material;

passing the air through a second filter for filtering dry particulate; characterised in that:

the first filter is positioned within the duct in a lower portion of the duct associated with the second plenum and the one or more foot plates, and the second filter is associated with one or more input grills.

31. A method according to Claim 30 comprising the further step of passing the air through a third filter comprising a low impedance filter for filtering wet particulate material.

5 32. A method according to Claim 30 or Claim 31 comprising the further step of passing the air through a fourth filter comprising a second low impedance filter for filtering dry particulate material.

10 33. A method according to any one of Claims 30 to 32 comprising the further step of passing the air through a fifth filter comprising a first filter component comprising a relatively high impedance filter, and a second filter component comprising a combined mechanical and electrostatic filter.

15 34. A method according to any one of Claims 30 to 33 further comprising the step of controlling the temperature of the air flow onto the human body.

20 35. A computer programme product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of the method of any one of Claims 30 to 34.

36. A booth substantially as herein before described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

25 37. A tool substantially as herein before described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

38. A method substantially as herein before described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

30